Positive deviance in adaptation to climate change: making work for development what works for people

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Our story told by Birgit, Tigist, Leah

1. Why do we need a new approach?
2. Theoretical background
3. Results in practice
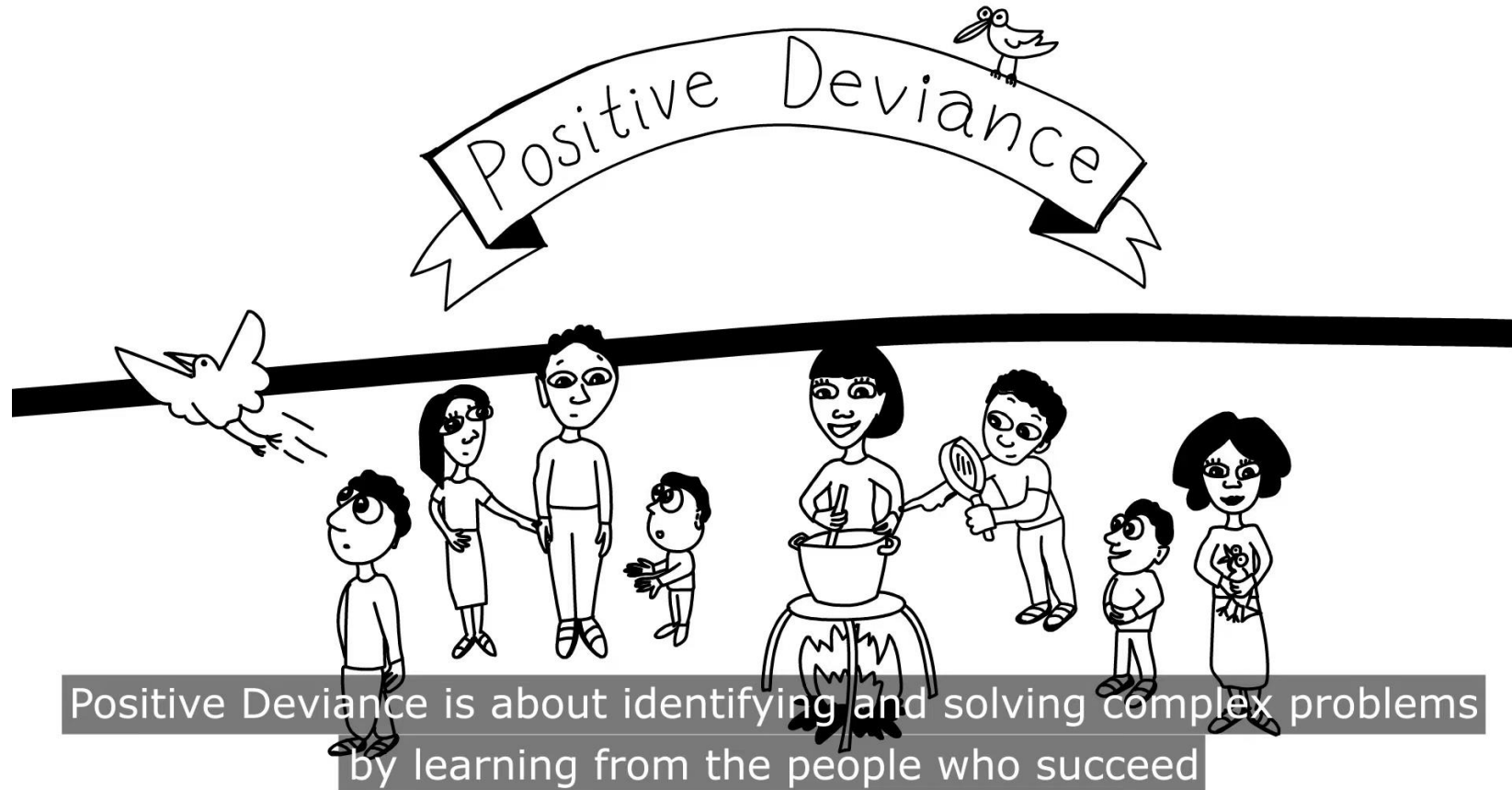4. What do we conclude from this moving forward?

Why do we need a new approach?

- Many decades of AR4D: relation to progress?
- Food insecurity is increasing, impact of CC worsening
- Working in AR4D:
  - Diffusion of innovations' theory
  - A broad interpretation of "participation"
  - And often a nostalgic view of "indigenous knowledge"

Mr. Pius, Kenya, m[...] livestock for weigh[...] estimation

Theoretical Framework:
What is positive deviance in our research?

Positive Deviance is about identifying and solving complex problems by learning from the people who succeed

https://positivedeviance.org/
https://youtu.be/0ULZWOm5ukg

Positive Deviance in Adaptation to Climate Change

STORYBOARD

Understanding CC

Understand the impact of climate change on livestock and how livestock farmers adapt, which adaptation practices most relevant (key informants, workshops)

Finding PDs

Look for local innovators among livestock farmers who are better in adapting to CC than others (key informants, group interviews in workshops, validation)

"Citizen Science" on PD farms

Training on monthly record keeping, register animals for recording, identify pioneers technologies and potential training demand on their side (SSI, ODK)

Demand based training for PDs

Training given ideally by local experts, local researchers, extension or veterinarians on topics suggested by PDs

Participatory F2F field days

PDs start engaging with others farmers on how they implement different technologies for their adapation practice

Feedback and scaling

Results of monthly record keeping and analyses of samples (e.g. feed) given to PDs, F2F and network based scaling emerging

Criteria for selection

Relevant Adaptation Practice:

- Frequency

- Priority

- Implementation

Positive deviants:

- Awareness of climate change

- Adaptation practice
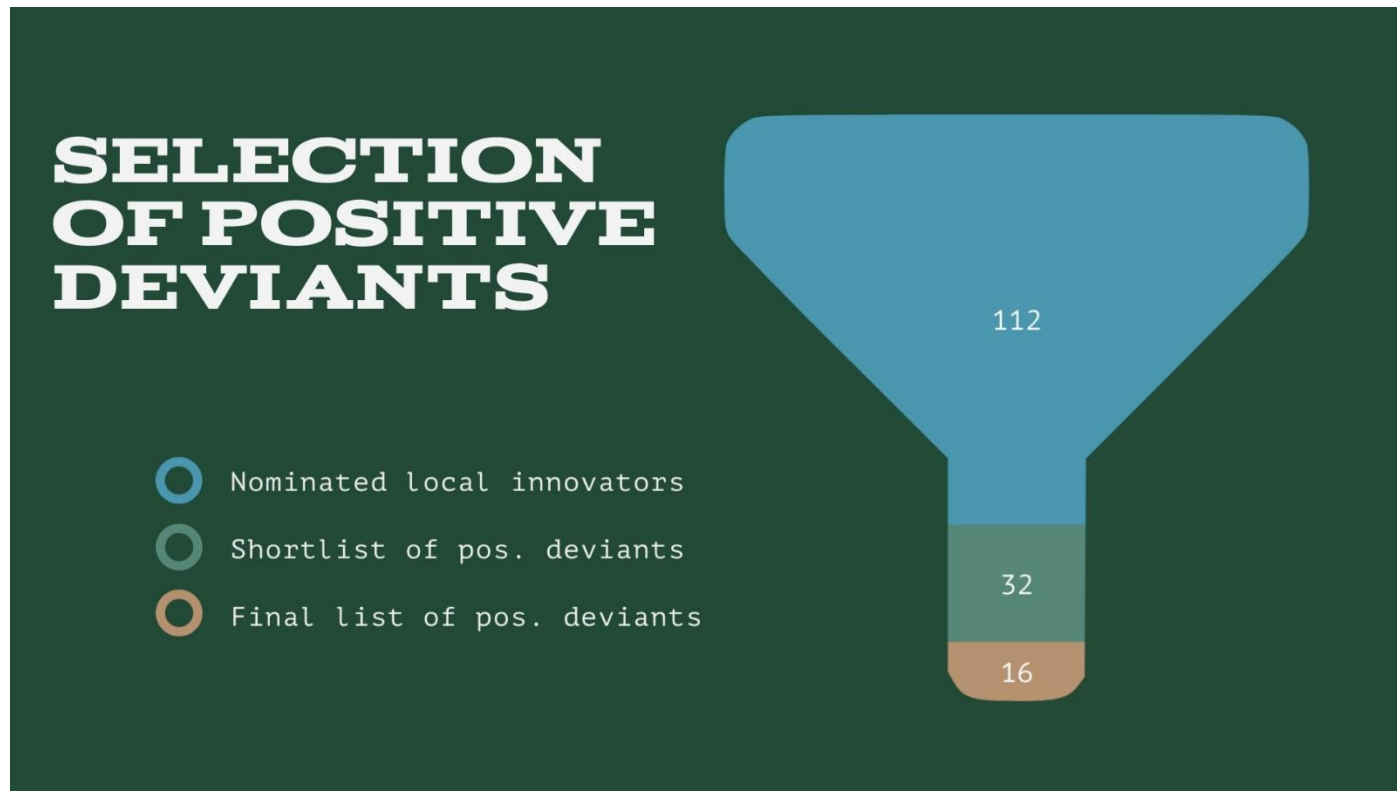
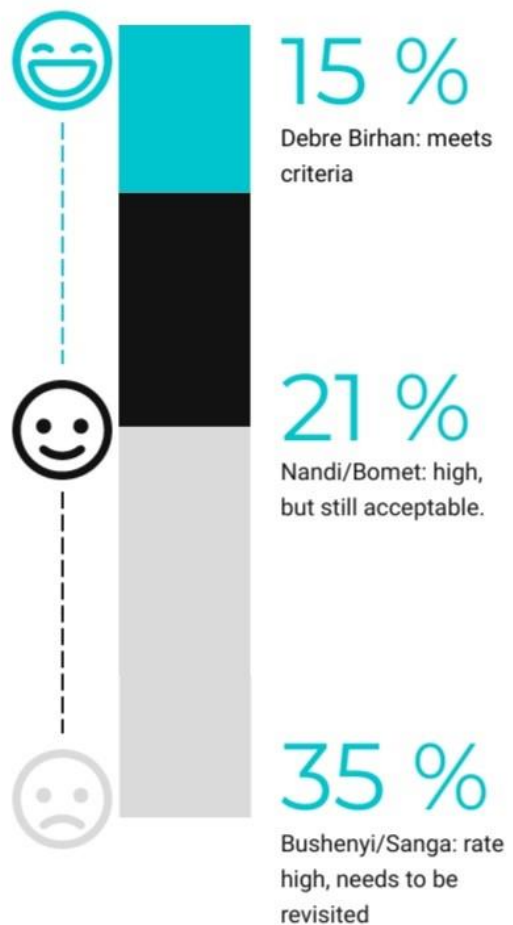- Pioneering character

- Potential for scaling out

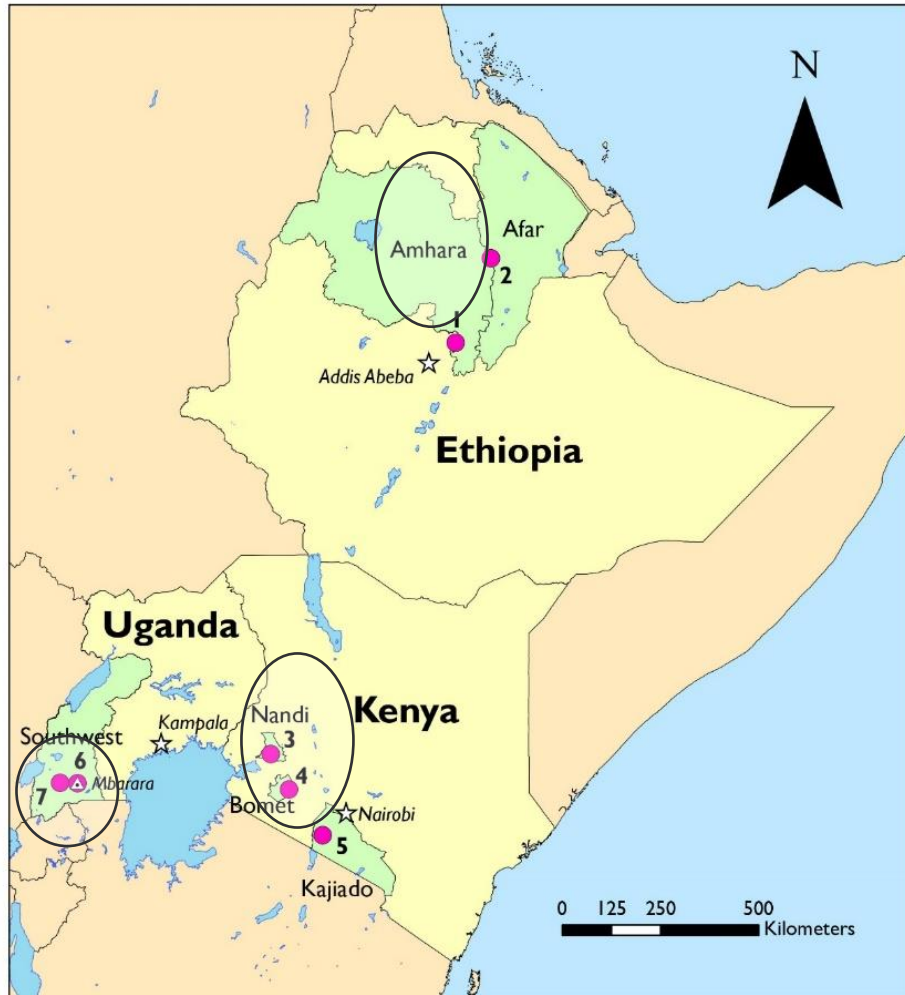Mr. Kidane, Ethiopia, demonstrating Desho Grass

Ms Phoebe, Uganda, demonstrating Forages to her farm laborer

Results: Identification of PDs

15 %
Debre Birhan: meets criteria

21 %
Nandi/Bomet: high, but still acceptable.

35 %
Bushenyi/Sanga: rate high, needs to be revisited

SELECTION OF POSITIVE DEVIANTS

- Nominated local innovators
- Shortlist of pos. deviants
- Final list of pos. deviants

112

32

16

Results: Adaptation Practices

Legend
- ☆ PSCL country capitals
- △ Regional capital
- 🟩 Sub-national administrative regions
- 🔴 Project sites

Amhara Region, Ethiopia
1. Debre Birhan (Basona Werana, Mojana Wadera)
   Sub-locations: Gudoberet and Tarmaber

Afar Region, Ethiopia
2. Zone 4 (Awra Woreda)
   Sub-locations: Hida, Lekura

Nandi County, Kenya
3. Sub-county: Mosop

Bomet County, Kenya
4. Sub-county: Sotik

Kajiado County, Kenya
5. Magadi Ward - Olkiramatian & Shompole

Southwest Uganda
6. Kiruhura
   Sub-location: Sanga

7. Bushenyi
   Sub-location: Bushenyi Town Council

Amhara Region, Debre Birhan, Ethiopia:
Practices:
Sheep fattening in response to CC
Technologies:
Use of home-made concentrate feeds
Use of feed trough
Hay making

Nandi and Bomet counties, Kenya:
Practices:
Feed conservation in Dairy Farming
Technologies:
Silage making
Hay making
Home-made concentrate feeds

Map prepared by Michael Graham/ ILRI

Highlands: hail and morning frosts damages important cash crops

- Affordable practice
- Sheep can be sold for mobilising assets
- Alternative to dairy (cost, infrastructure)
- Market access
- High demand for sheep during holidays

Feed concentrate preparation by Ms Tenagne

Ms Tenagne, Ethiopia, demonstrating feed preparation

Prolonged dry season leads to lack of feed: need to start feed conservation

- Shortage of grazing land due to subdivision

- Maize necrosis (Bomet): farmers shifted more to dairy for income generation, fodder cultivation to substitute maize

- Change of breeds
  - Improved dairy breeds need more and different feed
  - Exotic breeds are more affected by heat stress(indoor feeding)

- Ensuring constant milk production throughout

Mr. Edwin, Kenya, showing hay storage

Mr. Felix, Kenya, demonstrating silage (above) and feed preparation (left)

What do we conclude from this moving forward?

- Working with positive deviance helps to better understand what works in response to the impact of climate change

- Positive deviance helps to identify local capacities and knowledge needs

- Feedback and initial findings encouraged us to further develop our methods to reach more farmers

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Scaling up climate resilience and transformational change?

- Positive deviance questions traditional, linear framings of adoption

- More flexible response to uncertainty and unpredictability

- Resilience as built up by farmers themselves as an ideal learning ground, mobilising social capital

- Engages with multiple layers of actors based on demand: systematic response to need for change

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